

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling a telecommunications network comprising the steps of:
  - recognizing a busy condition of a subscriber line;
  - initiating a first call to said subscriber line in response to recognizing the busy condition, including transmitting a first call set-up message indicating a first special calling party number to said subscriber line;
  - detecting a trigger when said first call reaches a switching point in the telecommunications network;
  - in response to detecting the trigger, transmitting a first query message to a control point in the telecommunications network, said first query message including said special calling party number;
  - receiving said first query message at said control point;
  - storing an indicator of said condition in response to receiving said first special calling party number;
  - recognizing a change of said condition;
  - initiating a second call in response to recognizing the change of said condition, including transmitting a second call set-up message indicating a second special calling party number;
  - detecting a trigger when said second call reaches a switching point in the telecommunications network;
  - transmitting a second query message including said second special calling party number;
  - receiving said other query message including said second special calling party number; and
  - updating said indicator of said condition in response to receiving said second special calling party number.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said first and second special party numbers are different invalid calling party numbers.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of updating said indicator includes a step of updating said indicator to a status existing prior to said step of storing.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~1~~ wherein at least one of said steps of recognizing a condition includes a step of determining a status associated with a subscriber telephone number and said step of initiating a first call includes a step of calling said subscriber telephone number.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~1~~ wherein at least one of said steps of detecting a trigger is performed at a terminating switch serving a subscriber telephone line.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of initiating said first call includes calling a telephone number of said subscriber telephone line.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~1~~ wherein said step of storing an indicator of said condition in response to receiving said first special calling party number includes a step of setting a flag as part of a call processing record of an associated subscriber.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 ~~1~~ further comprising a step of transmitting a disconnect request.

10-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A method of processing calls to a telephone line serving a called party, comprising the steps of:

identifying a connection status of said telephone line of said called party;  
in response to determining a busy condition ---

(a) initiating a first call to said called party using a special calling party number,

(b) transiting a first query message to a remote control point, said first query message including said special calling party number, and

(c) in response to receiving said special calling party number at the remote control point, setting a status indicator of said telephone line at said remote control point; receiving a request for a second call to the telephone line, the second call from a calling party;

initiating the second call using a second call set-up message indicating a calling party number associated with the calling party; and

transmitting a second query message to the remote control point, said second query message including the calling party number associated with the calling party.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2—wherein said first call set-up message comprises an ISDN User Part (ISUP) message.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein:  
said step of transmitting a first query message includes transmitting a Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) message from said switching point to the control point;  
the control point comprises a Service Control Point (SCP); and  
said first special calling party number transmitted in a calling party identification portion of said TCAP message, said first special calling party number recognized as an invalid telephone number.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further comprising a step of processing, in response to said indicator, a subsequent third call initiated to the same telephone number as said first call.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein said step of initiating a first call to said called party includes transmitting an ISDN User Part (ISUP) message to a Service Switching Point (SSP) serving said called party.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein:

Said step of transmitting a first query message includes transmitting a Transaction Capabilities Application Part (TCAP) message from said SSP to the remote control point; the remote control point comprises a Service Control Point (SCP); and said special calling party number is transmitted in a calling party identification portion of said TCAP message, said special calling party number recognized as an invalid telephone number.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising a step of processing, in response to said status indicator, said second call.